

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the claims as indicated below, cancelling Claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Amended) A materials tester latching coupling device comprising:
a housing securable to a material tester, having a bore, a groove within said bore, and a groove wall;
an interfacier having a shank, a shoulder, and an annular flange formed on said shank, said shank insertable into said bore, said interfacier comprising a penetrator; and
a resilient member positioned within said groove and having first and second portions,
wherein when said shank is inserted into said bore, said first portion of said resilient member is supported by said annular flange of said interfacier and said second portion of said resilient member is supported by said groove wall of said housing,
and wherein said latching coupling device is used in conjunction with a penetration tester.

2. (Amended) A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein ~~when~~ said annular flange has an angled surface.

- 3 (Original) A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein when said shank is inserted into said bore, said shank and an inner wall of said bore substantially do not contact each other except at said resilient member.

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Amendment

4. (Original) A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said shank includes a flat portion adapted for use with a spring-loaded-ball assembly.
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Original) A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said resilient member comprises one of a spring and an elastomer O-ring.
7. (Original) A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said resilient member is a canted coil spring.
8. (Amended) A ~~materials~~ penetration tester latching coupling device comprising:
a housing securable to a ~~material~~ penetration tester, having a bore and an annular flange;
~~an interfacier~~ a penetrator having a shank, a shoulder, a groove, and a groove wall,
said shank insertable into said bore; and
a resilient member positioned within said groove of said ~~interfacier~~ penetrator and having first and second portions,

wherein when said shank is inserted into said bore, said first portion of said resilient member is supported by said annular flange of said housing and said second portion of said resilient member is supported by said groove wall of said ~~interface~~ penetrator.

9. (Original) A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said annular flange has an angled surface.

10. (Amended) A method of securing ~~an interface~~ a penetrator to a ~~materials testing machine~~ penetration tester, comprising the steps of:

providing a housing securable to a ~~material~~ penetration tester, the housing having a bore, a groove in said bore, and a groove wall;

providing ~~an interface~~ a penetrator having a shank, a shoulder, and an annular flange formed on said shank, said shank insertable into said bore;

providing a resilient member positioned within said groove and having first and second portions;

inserting said shank into said bore, wherein said first portion of said resilient member is supported by said annular flange of said ~~interface~~ penetrator and said second portion of said resilient member is supported by said groove wall of said housing.

11. (Amended) A method of securing ~~an interfacer~~ a penetrator to a ~~materials~~ penetration testing machine comprising the steps of:

providing a housing securable to a ~~material~~ penetration tester, the housing having a bore and an annular flange;

providing ~~an interfacer~~ a penetrator having a shank, a shoulder, a groove, and a groove wall;

providing a resilient member positioned within said groove and having first and second portions,

inserting said shank into said bore, wherein said first portion of said resilient member is supported by said annular flange of said housing and said second portion of said resilient member is supported by said groove wall of said ~~interfacer~~ penetrator.

12. (Amended) A ~~material testing machine interfacer~~ penetration tester penetrator coupler for securing ~~an interfacer~~ a penetrator to a ~~material testing machine~~ penetration tester, comprising:

a housing securable to a ~~material~~ penetration tester, having at least one side having a bore, and further having an end face, a groove, and a groove wall, said bore adapted to receive the ~~interfacer~~ penetrator; and

a resilient member positioned within said groove and having first and second portions,

wherein when the ~~interface~~penetrator is inserted into said bore, said first portion of said resilient member is supported by the ~~interface~~penetrator and said second portion of said resilient member is supported by said groove wall of said housing.

Kindly add the following new claim.

–13. (New) A penetration tester latching coupling device comprising:

a housing securable to a penetration tester having a bore;

a penetrator having a shank and a shoulder, said shank insertable into said bore;

a groove formed on one of i) said housing in said bore, or ii) said penetrator on said shank;

an annular flange formed on the other of i) said housing in said bore, or ii) said penetrator on said shank; and

a resilient member positioned within said groove and having first and second portions,

wherein when said shank is inserted into said bore, said first portion of said resilient member is supported by said annular flange and said second portion of said resilient member is supported by said groove wall—.